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ON PAGE A5

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Reagan Revives Intelligence Watchdog Unit

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President Reagan breathed new life yesterday into the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, a watchdog panel that will help him grade information gathered by the nation's spies.

Reagan named former ambassador to Britain Anne Armstrong as chairman and Washington economist Leo Cherne as vice chairman.

The rest of the panel was heavily larded with corporate executives and people well connected to the Republican Party, but members include former Watergate special prosecutor Leon Jaworski, now a Houston attorney.

The task of the 19-member board, established by President Eisenhower in 1956 and abolished by President Carter in 1977, is to assess the quality, quantity and adequacy of U.S. intelligence gathering worldwide.

Reagan also appointed all new members to the three-member Intelligence Oversight Board, which checks the legality of intelligence gathering by the United States. As chairman, he named W. Glenn Campbell, director of Stanford University's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

The naming of the two boards is consistent with Reagan's desire to have the best possible intelligence available to American officials, said national security adviser Richard V. Allen.

Allen said reestablishment of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board in no way indicates Reagan is dissatisfied with the information gathered by such bodies as the Central Intelligence Agency but shows the product can "always be improved."

Meanwhile, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee accused the Reagan administration

yesterday of "politicizing" the CIA and demanded that FBI Director William H. Webster testify on the White House plan to expand the powers of the CIA.

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) said Webster's failure to testify is becoming an issue in the congressional debate over the proposed presidential order on U.S. intelligence agencies.

"We want to hear from the director," Moynihan said. "They keep sending up assistants." Webster has not commented publicly on the proposal so far and the FBI had no immediate comment on Moynihan's statement.

Moynihan, at a news conference, said the dispute over the presidential order on intelligence agencies threatened to harm the CIA by putting the spy agency back in the public spotlight and reviving memories of intelligence abuses uncovered by a Senate committee in the 1970s.

Administration sources have indicated that high-ranking FBI officials have reservations about the draft order, which would give the CIA its first authority to infiltrate and influence domestic groups, but FBI officials have not publicly criticized the plan.

The draft order would replace restrictions imposed on U.S. intelligence agencies by President Carter in January, 1978. Carter's order basically limited infiltration of domestic groups to the FBI.

"They [CIA officials] were back at work," Moynihan said. "We had gotten it [the agency] back to quiet again."

In addition, the senator criticized the Reagan administration for "politicizing" the CIA with its choice of Reagan's campaign manager, William J. Casey, as director.

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